Raids by Railway Squad on touts

2226. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids carried out by the Railway Squad in different Zones to catch touts engaged in black marketing of rail tickets since January, 2001;

(b) the action taken against the touts;

(c) whether any action has been taken to check illegal reservation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 12585 checks were conducted against touts during the period January to May, 2001 over the Zonal Railways.

(b) Touts apprehended are prosecuted under the relevant provisions of law.

(c) and (d) In order to curb the menace of unauthorized sale of tickets, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments both in and around reservation offices at all important stations. Police is also involved in the drives against touts. Strict disciplinary action is taken against any railway staff found conniving in malpractices under the Disciplinary and Appeal Rules. Besides, during peak rush periods, monitoring at important locations is stepped up.

Wagons manufacture orders

2227. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Budget for 2001-2002 had made provision of manufacture of 23,000 wagons, but the Ministry has not released any orders for them to the manufacturing units so far during the current year;